



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Submitted by: Stop MPRP, Inc.

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **Senate Bill 951 (SB951)** as a necessary step toward strengthening Maryland's energy system by **removing barriers to local power generation and transmission development**. This bill allows **investor-owned utilities to construct and operate their own energy infrastructure**, ensuring that Maryland can implement the most effective and timely solutions to meet growing electricity demand.

Maryland's current energy planning process relies too heavily on regional transmission projects, such as the **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)**, which require years of regulatory review and construction, significantly increasing costs and causing disruption to communities and conservation lands. **SB951 provides a more effective alternative by enabling distributed generation solutions that optimize existing distribution corridors rather than depending on long-distance, high-voltage transmission.**

Key Benefits of SB951

- **Optimizing Existing Electric Distribution Rights-of-Way – Distributed generation, enabled by SB951, allows for better utilization of existing electric distribution rights-of-way** rather than relying on costly and disruptive regional transmission expansion. This approach enhances grid efficiency and reduces the need for new transmission infrastructure that impacts rural landscapes and protected lands.
- **Enhancing Local Energy Security and Reliability** – Allowing utilities to build and operate their own generation and transmission assets ensures Maryland can meet demand **without unnecessary reliance on out-of-state power sources**. Local generation also minimizes transmission congestion and power losses associated with long-distance energy delivery.
- **Reducing Regulatory Delays and Costs** – Existing regulatory structures slow the development of energy infrastructure and limit Maryland's ability to invest in its own power supply. SB951 eliminates these restrictions, ensuring that **solutions can be implemented quickly while reducing overall costs to ratepayers.**



- **Encouraging a Balanced Approach to Grid Modernization –**

Maryland must move beyond the traditional centralized transmission model. SB951 enables a diversified energy strategy, including **distributed generation, microgrids, and targeted transmission upgrades**, ensuring a **cost-effective, resilient, and environmentally responsible** electricity system.

Conclusion

Maryland must take decisive action to modernize its energy infrastructure. Delays caused by regional transmission planning place unnecessary burdens on ratepayers, communities, and the environment. **SB951 provides the flexibility and authority for Maryland's utilities to strengthen energy reliability by making full use of existing distribution rights-of-way while minimizing unnecessary transmission expansion.**

For these reasons, I **urge the committee to issue a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB951.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Frederick

President

Stop MPRP, Inc.

joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org

443.789.1382